

DIJ NEWSLETTER

October 2006

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Information from the German Institute for Japanese Studies

From Kudan to Kioicho

by Florian Coulmas

A moving experience is a moving experience. It is not just desks and chairs, computers and printers, books and bookshelves that have to be transported from one place to another, but hearts and minds as well. Trodden paths – to the nearest subway station, the favourite convenience store, the lunchtime noodle shop – are dear to many, their familiarity being what most recommends them. Dislocation means having to find new paths, a disturbance of our daily routine. In this regard, it makes little difference whether the move is within the same city or across the ocean. Also, it hardly matters whether the new domicile is better or worse than the previous

one; the disturbance of the move is welcomed by some and dreaded by others. A move is a stir in our little universe that brings out our true character as nomads or residents, explorers or hoarders, ad hoc improvisers or methodological purists, pragmatists or dogmatists, enthusiasts or faultfinders.

What some see as an opportunity is a trauma to others. But that is just the move itself. Once it is over, the pains are quickly forgotten allowing us to settle back into our old ways – or start looking for new exploits, which ever our inclination may be. Whatever, a move is an occasion to learn much about ourselves and others. A move, as one with plenty of experience once remarked,

is not just about logistics, it is a cultural event. The ethnography of moving is yet to be written, and it is a promising field of research to be sure. Clearly, the displacement of objects means different things in different cultures.

Japan is a culture where things enjoy a measure of respect. Unless they qualify as bulky garbage, they deserve to be treated well. To be a thing in Japan is not a bad lot. Even without a move on the horizon many everyday objects are carefully placed into boxes and stored away in other boxes lest they suffer damage from careless handling, earthquake or other adversity. Moving objects to new quarters puts them at risk, something that cannot be taken lightly. Japanese removers have a heart for things, and

not just the managers who make a bid and compete for the deal, but also the packers who have to pick up the boxes and haul the furniture in the midsummer heat. When moving, some of the more agreeable facets of Japanese culture come to the fore: careful planning, circumspection, a sense for propriety, gentleness, punctuality.

Stories can be told of what happened. Elevators could not be used on weekdays; time schedules had to be rearranged, nightshifts paid for watchmen. But in the end, stories of objects damaged, misplaced or put upside-down are not among them. A couple of false alarms from the new security system; that was about the height of the excitement. Other than that everything proceeded smoothly, no cliff-hanger, no tears. We were offline for hours rather than weeks. Chaos was so limited that, to the more adventurous, the relocation seemed hardly worth the effort.

The DIJ has moved from the hill of Kudan to that of Kioicho, less than a mile as the crow flies, but a step ahead. Our new address:

Jochi Kioizaka Building 2F
7-1, Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0094

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German Institute for Japanese Studies
Managing editor: Andrea Germer
Jochi Kioizaka Building 2F
7-1, Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0094, Japan
Tel.: +81-3-3222-5077
Fax: +81-3-3222-5420
E-mail: dijtokyo@dijtokyo.org
Homepage: <http://www.dijtokyo.org>



Jochi Kioizaka Building, main entrance. The new rooms and the library of the DIJ are located on the second and third floor.
Photo: Ursula Flache



How to find the DIJ

Coming from:

Akasaka Mitsuke Station → Exit D (Hotel New Otani)

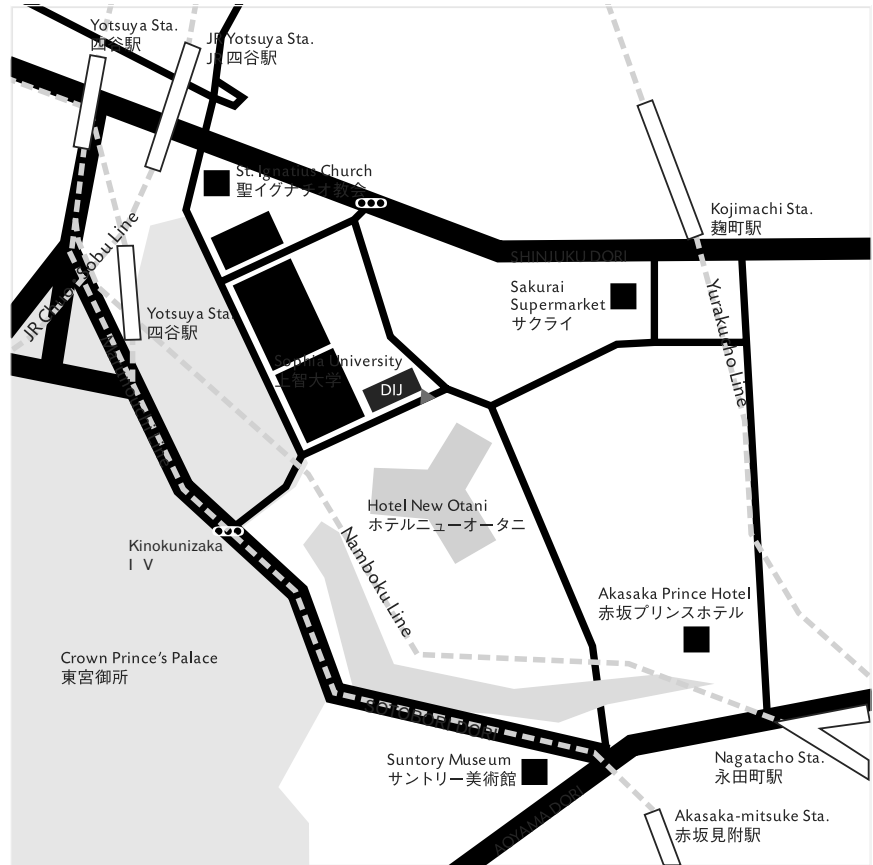
Nagatacho Station → Exit 7 (Hotel New Otani)

Cross Benkei Bridge and follow the road (with Hotel New Otani on your left) for about 300m. Cross the traffic light and turn left. At the next corner (traffic light) cross the road again and take a few steps up to the main glass door entrance to the Jochi Kioizaka Building on your right. The main entrance is on floor B3. The DIJ's entrance is on floor 2.

Coming from:

Yotsuya Station → Exit 1

Cross Yotsuya Mitsuke Bridge and turn right. Follow the road (with St Ignatius' Church on your left) along the outside of Sophia University's campus for about 500m. Turn left at the next corner and walk down the hill for about 200m. The main glass door entrance to the Jochi Kioizaka Building is on the next corner on your left. The main entrance is on floor B3. The DIJ's entrance is on floor 2.



CURRENT RESEARCH

Communication between Staff and Residents in a Japanese Nursing Home for the Elderly

The rapid ageing of Japan's population is producing a quickly growing number of elderly people in need of care. Due to the dissolution of the traditional three-generation household and its replacement by the nuclear family, the provision of such care is now frequently assigned to professional welfare organisations. As recent figures by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare show, the number of Japanese caring facilities has been constantly on the rise over the last decades. This development calls for research into the socio-cultural characteristics of everyday life in Japanese caring institutions.

The communicative background to professional caring is the subject of a new research project which has just been started at the DIJ. By examining the linguistic interaction between staff and residents in a Japanese nursing home for the elderly, the project tries to provide answers to the following questions:

- What linguistic strategies are applied to maintain the institutional order?
- How are power differences between staff and residents linguistically expressed and negotiated?
- What universal characteristics and what regional differences can be observed in caring institutions for elderly people in cross-cultural comparison?
- How can the communication between staff and residents be improved?

Empirical research for this project will be conducted in a Japanese nursing home for the elderly called "Edogawa Care" (pseudonym). The home is situated at the outskirts of a small city in Saitama Prefecture north of Tokyo. It has around 60 regular employees and accommodates about 100 elderly people who suffer from varying degrees of age-related mental and/or physical impairments. Data are gathered by making audio recordings of naturally occurring conversations between staff and residents. Subsequent analysis, based on transcripts of the conversations recorded, endeavours to identify key characteristics of communication in institutional care facilities for elderly people in Japan, as well as to compare these observations to previous findings on the topic in other cultural contexts.

All in all, the project aims to gain a better understanding of everyday communication behaviour in Japanese homes for elderly people, the formal and functional characteristics of the communication, and what can be done to improve it. The following DIJ working paper gives a first overview on the project:

06/6 Peter Backhaus: *Care, Control, and Communication – Linguistic Interaction between Staff and Residents in a Japanese Nursing Home for the Elderly.*

Images of the Nation: Gender, Race, and Culture in Women's Magazines of Wartime Japan and Germany

With regard to concepts of nation and nationalism in wartime societies, it is important to look at the discursive ways in which the categories of gender, culture and race are addressed to make nationalist claims acceptable and desirable for men and women. One of these discursive ways is the production and strategic employment of imagery that often transports a narrative of its own. Accordingly, one way of enhancing the use and range of material in historical sources is to shift the attention from the sole focus on texts to the use and effects of images in the production of meaning.





Nippon Fujin, *New year's edition 1943*, member of the Dai Nippon Fujinkai with badge.



The November 1943 issue of Nippon Fujin with the emblem of the Greater Japan Women's Association (a red sun on a white field shaped like the character for "woman").



Cover page of the N.S. Frauen-Warte, organ of the N.S. Frauenschaft, February 1944.



Cover page of N.S. Frauen-Warte, June edition 1944.

In her comparative research on nationalist agendas, Andrea Germer focuses on the imagery employed in the political women's magazines that had the highest circulation in wartime Germany and Japan. Her aim is to examine how they served the nation-state in its endeavour to mobilize the whole range of "human material" for "total war". The magazines *Nippon Fujin* (The Japanese Woman) and *N.S. Frauen-Warte* (NS Women's Outlook) were both organs of their respective states' streamlined women's organizations: *N.S. Frauen-Warte* was published from 1932 through 1945 as the ideological publication of the Nazi women's organization N.S. Frauenschaft (NS Women's Organization), and *Nippon Fujin*, run from 1942 through 1945, served the same function for the official and supposedly all-encompassing Dai Nippon Fujinkai (Greater Japan Women's Organization).

Based on the analysis of these distinctly state-oriented cultural and political magazines, Germer examines similarities and differences in the nationalist use of the categories gender, culture, and race by both countries. She also traces changes in the depiction of these categories in the course of the war with the following questions in mind: How are women and men represented and what are the models of identification offered? What role does racist ideology and imagery play in both magazines, how is it intertwined with gender and culture as other signifiers of difference and hierarchy, and how is this visually enacted? How are visual cultural signifiers used to sup-

port nationalist claims and what are the German-Japanese cross-cultural references? Considering the configuration of textual and visual material as well as the authors/makers of the magazines, Germer argues that the German and Japanese war propaganda, in different ways, did not only resort to general stereotypes of woman as mother and of man as soldier, but also used emancipatory role models to mobilize both genders for the war effort.

PhD projects

Patterns of Cooperation between Environmental NGOs and Large-Scale Enterprises in Japan

Until the beginning of the 1990s, the relationship between large-scale enterprises and environmental NGOs in Japan was characterized by a strong victim/offender dichotomy. However, in recent years there is an observed increase of bilateral environmental cooperation between these actors, although Japanese environmental NGOs are still comparatively small and presumably weak. The dissertation project by Susanne Brucksch looks into various examples of such bilateral interaction and investigates which forms of cooperative patterns exist and which factors are making an impact on the emergence of eco-collaborations, an area which has often been neglected in the political science literature. During her research stay at the DIJ, she collected data of several case studies which will show how different cooperation patterns are initiated and how the characteristics of individual actors are influencing the mechanisms and structures of cooperative relationships between environmental NGOs and large-scale enterprises. The dissertation project makes use of two research methods, a qualitative case study among different types of environmental cooperation and a quantitative empirical survey.

Asianism and Japanese Perceptions of China, 1911–1949

Most scholarship on Japanese history dismisses Asianism (*Ajiashugi*) as a euphemism for "expansionism and a policy of aggression." Rarely has Asianism been understood as an intellectual concept containing a critique of prevailing cultural, civilizational and historical discourses. This may be due to the discredit of Asianism for its link with Japanese imperialism ("Greater



East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere”) or due to the relative emptiness of the term Asianism itself. However, to comprehend the intellectual substance of Asianist debates in modern Japan and to understand their lasting significance, studies of Asianism as a framework of thought are indispensable.

In his research project Torsten Weber interprets Asianism as an intellectual concept that has its roots in Meiji-Japan and which, at the latest since the annexation of Korea, has strongly focused on integrating China into its rationale. Torsten Weber examines how participants in this discourse (Tokutomi Sohō, Inoue Tetsujirō, Miyazaki Tōten and others) employed conceptions of cultural and ethnic commonality (*dōbun dōshu*) in their arguments for the unity of “the East” in general and the unity of China and Japan in particular. Asianism thus can be understood as an intellectual manifestation of resistance against both Western aggression and competing Asian nationalisms, although its conflation with Japanese expansionism must be considered as well. In order to grasp the impact and diversity of the debate, Torsten Weber also takes into account non-Japanese contributions to the discourse, such as Sun Yat-sen’s “Greater Asianism” and Li Dazhao’s “New Asianism”.

The Floating World of the Japanese Love – Anime, Identity, and Japan

The PhD project by Maria Mengel tackles the problem of identity construction in contemporary Japan through the analysis of anime as a socio-cultural phenomenon. Often regarded as the first original (cultural) product ever exported by Japan, anime is on the one hand a site of acceptance, submission and integration, and on the other hand it is an expression of possible resistance, oblivion and self-identification. Among the many topics dealt with in anime, Mengel analyses the theme of “love” (as theorized by Baudrillard, Eagleton, Foucault, Kristeva, Lyotard, and others). Moreover, she interprets identity not as a fixed structure, but as a fluid continuum and a flexible “game” (as defined by Ludwig Wittgenstein) that refers to language as a complex entity comprising several “languages” and their employment strategies. The attempt to look at anime, a typical product of Japanese postmodernity, through the prism of several Western theories and, in doing so, to focus on the question of how love is (re)presented, transmitted and perceived through the medium of popular

culture, reveals not only the avatars of the daily search for identity in the “cultural supermarket”, but also sheds light on how culture and economy, politics and sciences, tradition and innovation interact on a more general (and globalized) consumption level.

WORKING PAPERS

06/2 Gabriele Vogt: *Japan’s Green Networks: Going Transnational?*

06/3 Gabriele Vogt: *Doors Wide Shut? The Current Discourse on Labor Migration to Japan.*

06/4 Annette Schad-Seifert: *Coping with Low Fertility? Japan’s Government Measures for a Gender Equal Society.*

06/5 Gabriele Vogt: *Facing the Challenge of Immigration? The State, Civil Society and Structures of Interdependence.*

06/6 Peter Backhaus: *Care, Control, and Communication: Linguistic Interaction between Staff and Residents in a Japanese Nursing Home for the Elderly.*

06/7 Harald Conrad: *Turning Boomers into Boomerangs – Japanese Human Resource Management Practices and the Aging Workforce.*

06/8 Andreas Moerke: *Internationalization Strategies of the German and Japanese Automobile and Supplier Industries.*

CONFERENCE REPORTS

European Science Foundation Exploratory Workshop “Mapping Linguistic Diversity in Multicultural Contexts”
(Siena, September 15–17, 2006)

The University of Siena was the venue for an Exploratory Workshop sponsored by the European Science Foundation’s Standing Committee for the Humanities. Bringing together researchers in the field of multilingualism from various European countries, Asia, South Africa and Australia, the workshop aimed at identifying research tools for the mapping and meas-

uring of linguistic diversity in a globalising world. Peter Backhaus presented a paper titled “The Languages of Tokyo”, in which he discussed the findings of an empirical study into the language on signs in Tokyo as well as the general potential of this type of research for the mapping of linguistic diversity.

Globe 2006 Conference Communicating Across Age Groups: Age, Language and Society
(Warsaw, September 21–23, 2006)

How is age linguistically constructed, maintained and challenged across discourses, institutions, cultures and times? This was the key question discussed in an international conference on age, language and society, organized by the Institute of Applied Linguistics at Warsaw University. Peter Backhaus used the venue to give a paper on the linguistic interaction in a Japanese nursing home for the elderly, and thus presented this new DIJ research project to a wider audience.

Cultural Typhoon 2006
(Tokyo, June 30 – July 2, 2006)

Under the thematic focus on “city”, this year’s Cultural Typhoon, a conference for researchers and activists alike, was held in Shimokitazawa, Tokyo. In the panel, “Tokyo’s New Face: International and Intercultural”, organized by Gabriele Vogt, two DIJ members presented their research work. Peter Backhaus presented results from his extensive fieldwork in his paper on “Signs of Multilingualism in Tokyo: A Diachronic Look at the Linguistic Landscape”; Gabriele Vogt shed light on the discussion that has evolved around Japan’s immigration policy in her presentation titled “Do You Speak Japanese? Revisiting Immigration Policies”. Andrew Horvat of Tokyo Keizai University served as commentator and initiated a lively exchange between the panelists and the audience.

5th International Conference on Okinawan Studies “Imagined Okinawa: Challenges from Time and Space”
(Venice, September 14–16, 2006)

In mid-September, the Department of East Asian Studies at Ca’Foscari University of Venice hosted the 5th International Conference on Okinawan Studies. The conference was titled “Imagined Okinawa: Challenges from



Time and Space" and drew some 50 scholars in various fields of Okinawan studies. Gabriele Vogt of the DIJ presented a paper under the title "A Woman's World? Social Movements in Okinawa". A video of the conference will soon be available at the Conference Homepage: <http://venus.unive.it/okinawa>.

20th International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress (Fukuoka, July 9–13, 2006)

Under the main theme of "Is Democracy Working?", the 20th IPSA World Congress was held in Fukuoka. For five days, approximately 3,000 researchers from political science and other disciplines discussed topics evolving around future models of democracy. Three members of the DIJ took part in a conference panel, organized by Gabriele Vogt, and introduced the DIJ's research focus, "Challenges of Demographic Change". The panel "Demographic Change and Democratic Governance" explored implications of Japan's demographic change for the structures of Japan's political system. The following papers were given and commented on by Patricia Boling (Purdue University): "Coping with Low Fertility? Japan's Government Measures for a Gender-Equal Society" (Annette Schad-Seifert); "Facing the Challenge of Immigration? The State, Civil Society and Structures of Interdependence" (Gabriele Vogt); "Less Money, Less People, More Responsibilities – Japanese Municipalities in a New Wave of Decentralization" (Volker Elis).

BOOK REVIEWS

Christian W. Spang and Rolf-Harald Wippich (eds.): *Japanese-German Relations, 1895–1945. War, Diplomacy and Public Opinion*. Routledge Studies in the Modern History of Asia, 35 London: Routledge, 2006, xv, 222 pp., ISBN 0-415-34248-1, £ 66.50, € 93.57, \$ 110.00, ¥ 14,810.

Basic books on the history of Japanese-German relations written in English are not published every year. All the more important is the new book *Japanese-German Relations, 1895–1945. War, Diplomacy and Public Opinion* edited by Christian W. Spang and Rolf-Harald Wippich. The articles are divided into

four parts: Part I. Military Background; Part II. Mutual Perceptions; III. Culture and Science; IV. Rapprochement and War. Written by Japanese and German experts accounted for German-Japanese relations, the contributions are easily readable and very informative. The majority of the contributors made successful efforts not only to use already published secondary literature and official documents, but also to use interviews, correspondence and diaries of historical personalities, as well as to consult other unpublished materials. This book substantially enriches the research area regarding the German-Japanese relations. The main focus lies on the history of political-military relations, diplomacy and personal contacts between Japanese and Germans in the period under review. The book price, however, as the publisher is maybe aware, is a disincentive for historically interested non-historians and students of the science of history.

The topics of the articles are as follows: *Introduction – from 'German Measles' to 'Honorary Aryans': an overview of Japanese-German relations until 1945* (Christian W. Spang and Rolf-Harald Wippich); *The Imperial Japanese Army and Germany* (Sven Saaler); *Naval relations between Japan and Germany from the late nineteenth-century until the end of World War II* (Berthold J. Sander-Nagashima); *Japan-enthusiasm in Wilhelmine Germany: the case of the Sino-Japanese War, 1894–5* (Rolf-Harald Wippich); *The 'Yellow Peril' and its influence on Japanese-German relations* (Akira Iikura); *Exoticism in early twentieth-century German literature on Japan* (Gerhard Schepers); *Personal contacts in Japanese-German cultural relations during the 1920s and early 1930s* (Tetsurō Katō); *Karl Haushofer re-examined: geopolitics as a factor of Japanese-German rapprochement in the inter-war years?* (Christian W. Spang); *The Berlin-Tokyo Axis reconsidered: from the Anti-Comintern Pact to the plot to assassinate Stalin* (Nobuo Tajima); *The German Nazi Party: a model for Japan's 'New Order' 1940–1?* (Gerhard Krebs); *Japanese-German collaboration in the development of bacteriological and chemical weapons and the war in China* (Bernd Martin).

The clear language of most of the articles is enjoyable, too. To call a spade a spade with respect to historical misrepresentations, myths, false notions and ideologies has not always been standard procedure in German and Japanese historiography. Nonetheless, in the research field of German-Japanese relations there are still many desiderata, for example in the fields of science, technology, and business history.

(Matthias Koch)

Hiromichi Sakai, *Shōshika ,hitsu-doku' jōkushū* [Required poison (reading) about birth rate decline]. Tokyo: Chūōkōron-Shinsha, 2006. 192 pp., ISBN 4-12-150218-3 C1295, ¥ 720.

坂井博通、『少子化「必毒」ジョーク集』、中央公論新社、2006

Demographers have concluded that celebrating birthdays is good for your health, because those people who celebrate the most birthdays become the oldest. Demographics is no laughing matter, or is it? A flood of media reports, government announcements and scholarly as well as popular books have taught us how precarious Japan's population dynamics are. The government reshuffle in autumn 2005 created a state minister for low fertility and gender equality (*shōshika danjo kyōdō sankaku*), the ultimate proof that a crisis is at hand; a crisis of which by now the majority of Japanese are convinced.

Crisis or not, people make jokes about it, and plenty. Hiromichi Sakai, a professor of Health Insurance and Welfare at Saitama Prefecture University, presents a collection of them as "required poison", a pun on the homonymous "required reading".

People don't make jokes about something for no reason, but because they are concerned. That is Sakai's premise, and it works out quite well. Using jokes as a starting point, he addresses many important issues involved in Japan's changing population structure, such as ageing, fertility decline, the growing tendency to marry late or never, changing gender roles and the double burden of work and childrearing. In these jokes there is a good portion of black humour that speaks of frustration, genuine hardship and sometimes bitterness. The break-up of family ties, the so-called "care-giving hell", frightful kids with no siblings or resolute parents to control them, sexual fatigue and effeminate men are some of the targets of mockery and amusing stories. By exploring the humorous side of ageing, depopulation and a birth rate nearing free fall, Sakai sheds light on Japan's society in transition from an unexpected angle.

Humour is a defence mechanism helping people to cope with difficult, unpleasant or threatening situations. Many jokes, therefore, are indexical and require social and cultural knowledge to be appreciated. Sakai's collection is instructive in this regard, testifying to the general awareness in Japanese society that the Japanese population dynamics are a problem. There is,



however, little evidence that – other than making jokes about it – the Japanese change their demographic behaviour. They still refuse both to die and to have more children.

Sakai eschews psychological interpretations of jokes. He just uses them by way of introducing a topic he then goes on to discuss in detail. His often critical stance, especially vis-à-vis government policies, makes the reader see the hyperaged society with a low birth rate, which has attracted so much media attention of late, in a different light. Topics addressed in special columns include: the changing meaning of *shōshika* (declining birth rate), the causes of low fertility, the demographic impact of abortion, the reality of child-rearing leave, marriage counselling, among others.

So if you want to know why a statistically well-versed Japanese wants four rather than five children and what this has to do with Sino-Japanese relations, why a family of three may mean different things to husband and wife, why it has become fashionable among riper newlyweds to great each other in the evening by saying *bankonha* rather than *konbanha*, why demographers have few children, and what the meaning of *pātotaimurabu* is, if you want to know all this and more, you may enjoy reading this book which, for a change, looks at a serious issue in a light-hearted way, making us smile before we get bored.

(Florian Coulmas)

Josef Kreiner (Hg.): Japanese Collections in European Museums. Reports from the Toyota-Foundation-Symposium Königswinter 2003. Bonn: Bier'sche Verlagsanstalt, 2005. Set: € 120,00.

• **Vol. I: General Prospects.** JapanArchiv: Schriftenreihe der Forschungsstelle Modernes Japan; Bd. 5, 1. xvii, 256 pp., ISBN 3-936366-06-3.

• **Vol. II: Regional Studies.** JapanArchiv: Schriftenreihe der Forschungsstelle Modernes Japan; Bd. 5, 2. xviii, 774 pp., ISBN 3-936366-11-X.

The two volumes under review are the result of a symposium held in September 2003 on the current state of Japanese collections in European museums. Over the last couple of years, similar surveys, which focus on related topics, have already been published (e. g., *Impressions 25*, New York: Ukiyo-e Society of America, 2003). However, it is an achievement of the editor Josef Kreiner to have brought together a great number of institutions and thus

to have created the basis for this survey which also provides information on museums that are not easily accessible and/or not known for their Japanese collection. The problem of completeness, however, which is also mentioned by Kreiner himself, is still far from being solved. An entry for the British Museum in London, for example, with 30,000 objects one of the largest Japanese collections in Europe, is missing (only Gregory Irvine briefly reports on the history of its collection in vol. 2, pp. 4–5).

Josef Kreiner's lead article impressively describes the historical development of Japanese collections in Europe since the 16th century. In doing so, Kreiner condemns the common predilection for *ukiyo-e* which resulted in the neglect of other areas. The present-day interest in *ukiyo-e* especially in Japan became obvious with the success of the Hokusai exhibition at Tokyo National Museum, the most successful show worldwide in 2005 with an average of 9,436 visitors per day. Kreiner concludes with the appropriate observation that collaborations between museums need to be supported more. The first volume closes with essays on specialized collections (ethnography, theatre, *inrō*, Ryūkyū and Ainu) and an extensive bibliography.

The second volume features almost one third of approximately five hundred European museums with Japanese collections covered in essays or short descriptions within the survey articles. The essays are mostly written by the curators and thus concentrate predominantly on the suggested highlights of a collection. The second volume closes with various indices. It must be noted, however, that the Index of Artists lacks consistency. Sometimes there are multiple entries for one artist and/or an artist's surname is not listed. The entries "Taiso Yoshitoshi" (vol. 2, p. 772), "Tsukioka Yoshitoshi" (p. 773) and "Yoshitoshi" (p. 774) for example relate to the same person.

Unfortunately, the statistics on the number of museums with Japanese collections are also somewhat confusing. In the case of Great Britain, for example, Kreiner lists 5 museums with 63,087 objects in table 5 (vol. 1, p. 42) and at the same time mentions Irvine's number of 161 museums with approx. 100,000 objects; table 6 on the other hand quotes Irvine with 160 museums and approx. 150,000 objects. Furthermore, both statistics refer to Gregory Irvine's *A Guide to Japanese Art Collections in the UK* (Amsterdam: Japan Society, 2004), in which Irvine surprisingly provides us with detailed descrip-

tions of 166 museums. (Irvine's survey on Great Britain in vol. 2, pp. 13–20, is by the way taken from there, but the reference is not given.) It is not obvious at all why Kreiner's statistics mention only five museums, although vol. 2 features essays on six museums. As a matter of fact, a complete list of all museums described would have been very useful.

It goes without saying that museums and institutions cannot be forced to participate in such surveys; and unfortunately there seems to be little interest in such cooperation. It would be desirable, however, if at least those museums that provided information in these two volumes were open to future research projects and permitted access to their collections. Despite some minor shortcomings, it has to be concluded that after all this survey represents both a very welcomed first step in the right direction and an invaluable foundation for further research.

(Andreas Marks)

Stephan Köhn: Traditionen visuellen Erzählens in Japan. Eine paradigmatische Untersuchung der Entwicklungslinien vom Faltschirmbild zum narrativen Manga. Kulturwissenschaftliche Japanstudien, Bd. 2. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2005, ix, 360 S., ISBN 3-447-05213-9, € 48,00.

The book under review is Stephan Köhn's professorial dissertation at the University of Würzburg. The aim of Köhn's research is a systematic and scientifically well-founded analysis of visual narration in Japan. The author especially pays attention to the highly popular Japanese manga and refers to the question that derived from the Japanese manga discourse, i.e., whether their origin lies in 7th century temple paintings or in 20th century American comics. Köhn however concludes that the Japanese literature for children and the paper theatre played a decisive role in the complex historical development of manga. Köhn's dissertation reflects the growing importance of manga in modern Japanese studies. Comics, in general, are also enjoying an upsurge of popularity in Germany. The two largest annual book fairs recognized this trend some years ago and thus established separate forums for manga. The Frankfurt Book Fair founded "Fascination Comics" in 2000 and, in the following year, the Leipzig Book Fair started with "Comics in Leipzig".

Initially Köhn defines the term "visuo-narration" as an umbrella term for narrative forms consisting of word and image. Unfortunately, this term



can easily be mistaken for the English term “visual narration”, which does not imply the existence of any text in a narration but only describes the narrative content of an image. Köhn’s analysis starts with an overview of manga research. In a theoretical part, he first explains the basic components of visual narration and then develops a “three-layer-model” based on Charles Sander Peirce’s theory of signs. This model looks at the individual narrative-operating modes and separates them into a micro-layer (potential design elements), a macro-layer (realization of these elements), and a supra-layer (rules of realization). Although Köhn tries to achieve an equal consideration of word and image, it would have been helpful if he had addressed the relation between word and image more thoroughly as does, for example, W. J. T. Mitchell (see W. J. T. Mitchell: “Word and Image,” in: *Critical Terms for Art History*, edited by Robert Nelson et al., Chicago: University of Chicago, 1996, pp. 51–61).

In the main part, Köhn dedicates himself to the history of visual narration in Japan and subdivides it into three periods. The first period of pre-media history begins in the 8th century. The development of a first medium in the 14th century marks the beginning of the second period. The third period describes the multimedia society since the end of the 19th century. Köhn leaves it open whether the first connections of word and image in painted folding scrolls and picture scrolls developed independently on their own in Japan or whether they originated from China. Köhn succeeds in deciphering and defining various vague scientific terms for the description of text forms such as *otogizōshi* (companion book) and *kusazōshi* (illustrated story book). In his description of the third period, Köhn points to the development of Japanese literature for children as the determining factor for the beginning of a modern form of visual narration and not to the established use of *koma-e* (single image) in satirical newspapers. Furthermore, he underlines the importance of the paper theatre (*kamishibai*) for the development of visual sequentiality. Köhn puts an end to the unfortunately widespread misapprehension that the term *manga* derives from the *Hokusai manga* (北斎漫画) by Hokusai Katsushika. Instead he claims that *manga* in this context and in preceding works stands for “multifarious images”, and that the *Hokusai manga* – just as much as the *Mustard Seed Garden (Jieziyuan huazhuan)* published in China around 1679 – is a manual of painting.

Köhn concludes that there is no consistent history of the development of visual narration in Japan and that manga does not hold an exceptional position as the highlight of visual narration. According to Köhn, new forms of visual narration develop in cycles, depending on specific factors such as, for example, new forms of expression and the expansion of publication systems. *Kusazōshi* as well as narrative manga are autonomous products of two asynchronous and independent cycles of development. With this book, Stephan Köhn has presented a well-substantiated interdisciplinary study. Besides the formulation of a theoretical model that can be used as a basis for further research projects, the value of this book lies in the detailed presentation of how visual narration has developed in Japan.

(Andreas Marks)

OTHER MATTERS/ OUTLOOK

Recipe for the Relocation of a Library



The library of the DIJ, before ...
Photo: Ursula Flache



... and after.
Photo: Ursula Flache

You need 14000 books, 13000 journal issues, 134 book shelves, a couple of CDs/DVDs and a sufficient amount of microfiches. Mix these ingredients

with various layout drafts, well-balanced schedules and a moving date. After an intermediate stage of 1300 packing cases, 681 loose shelf boards and 2 stressed librarians, you will be able to serve a well-organized library on time for its reopening in the new premises on 11 September 2006.

The relocation of the DIJ was a big challenge for its library. The narrow shape of the new room with its long row of windows called for an entirely new arrangement of the book shelves. Furthermore, the user’s workspace had to be divided. One part of the work desks is still to be found in the reading room, the other part was moved to the open shelves area.

The new stack was a very welcome addition to the library. Moving older reference books and journals to the stack provided more shelf space which was used to enlarge the reference book section. On the occasion of the library’s relocation, the entire collection (more than half a kilometre of books) was re-sorted and, where necessary, space was created for several years of new acquisitions. We hope that the new recipe for the DIJ Library will suit your taste and we are looking forward to your visit! Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Personnel News

Dr. Andreas Moerke, Research Fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies since September 1, 2001, and Head of the Business & Economics Department since November 1, 2005, left the Institute to become a Partner at JEBinterlogue, a consultancy with offices in Berlin, Hamburg and Tokyo.

During his time at the DIJ, Andreas Moerke did research mainly in the fields of corporate governance, industrial organisation, and international management. The results of his research have been published in refereed journals such as *Corporate Governance – An International Review*, *Advantages in International Management*, *Zeitschrift für Japanisches Recht* as well as *Shōjihōmu*, and in various anthologies.

Moerke also contributed to the DIJ’s main research project “Challenges of Demographic Change” with a project carried out together with Isa Ducke under the title “Knowledge Society and Demographic Change” and another project on the “Automobile Industry’s Reaction on Demographic Change”, both with corresponding publications.



Beside the Business & Economics Study Group, Andreas Moerke has organized a large number of conferences and symposia together with partners from science and industry, which focussed on topics such as corporate governance, mergers & acquisitions, capital markets & enterprise finance, as well as on the change of industry structures and on future key technologies. Related to these topics, the conference volume "Institutional Framework and Learning in Information Technology in Japan, the U.S and Germany" will be published with Routledge in fall 2006 (co-editor: Cornelia Storz) and the anthology "Japans Zukunftsindustrien", edited together with Anja Walke, will be published with Springer.

Dr. Harald Dolles, Research Fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (Business & Economics Section) since August 1, 2001, left the Institute on July 31, 2006. He has taken up the post of Professor of Management and International Business at Heilbronn Business School where he also acts as Academic Director for Research.

Dissertation Fellows

Barbara Geilhorn, Japanese Studies, Art History, German Literature, "Performing Gender on Stage from a New Perspective: Women Challenging the Male World of Japanese Nō and Kyōgen Theatre in the Dynamics of Modernisation and Internationalisation" (09.2006–2006.07).

Hinrich Homann, Japanology, Sinology, Korean Studies, "The Japanese Invasion of the Korean Peninsula (Bunroku-Keichō no eki/Imjin Waeran/Renchen Zhanzheng) between 1592 and 1598, and its Depiction in East Asian History Education since 1945" (07.2006–04.2007)

Torsten Weber, History, "Asianism and Japanese Perceptions of China, 1911–1949" (06.2006–03.2007).

DIJ Forum

Ambassador Kazuo Ogoura, President of The Japan Foundation: "Japan's Cultural Diplomacy and Cultural Policies" (November 2, 2006).

Usami Mayumi, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (Tokyo Gaikokugo Daigaku): "Politeness in Intercultural Communication" (November 16, 2006).

International Workshop

Representations of Gender, Race and Culture in Wartime Japan and Germany
(Tokyo, December 9, 2006)

Andrea Germer (DIJ) and **Ulrike Wöhr** (Hiroshima City University) are jointly organizing an international workshop that will focus on "Representations of Gender, Race and Culture in Wartime Japan and Germany". Further details and the workshop programme will shortly appear on the DIJ homepage. Inquiries can be sent to Andrea Germer (germer@dijtokyo.org).



The DIJ Newsletter is available for download from our homepage. If you would like to continue receiving it in print, we kindly ask you to let us know by e-mail, fax or letter.

Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien (DIJ) / German Institute for Japanese Studies
Jochi Kioizaka Bldg., 7-1 Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0094 Japan
Tel.: 03-3222-5077, Fax: 03-3222-5420, E-Mail: dijtokyo@dijtokyo.org
Homepage: <http://www.dijtokyo.org>

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Published by: IUDICIUM Verlag GmbH, Hans-Grässel-Weg 13, D-81375 München. Printed by: AZ Druck und Datentechnik GmbH, Heisinger Str. 14, 87437 Kempten. Publication dates: each June, October, February; not on sale in bookshops.

